

thing more than the absence of crystalline forms in their entirety—or the rolled and water-worn appearances in this Berwick discovery. They differ wholly from any I have seen heretofore. There is no sign of their being water-worn; and where a piece shows a solid angle, or where a crystal is complete—as a few of the blue sapphires, rubies, and one or two of the Oriental amethysts are—it is most perfect. The characteristic appearance of the collection, taken as a whole, is that of splinters—as if they had been broken with violence out of the hard formation that originally contained them—and that they had been left ever since in a state of quiescence. Ordinarily speaking, I should say they cannot have been washed very far from their original situs. And the granite formation and the old basalt through which the Berwick Creek and its tributaries flow would seem to be their native home. No doubt ere long much more will be heard about both the district and its gem beds.

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ART. XI.—*Description of a Clock made for the Lobby of the General Post Office, Melbourne.* By MR. R. L. J. ELLERY, (Government Astronomer), President.

The President gave a description of a new clock he had designed for the lobby of the new Post Office, and which had lately been constructed by Mr. Gaunt of this city. The clock has two dials, one in the lobby over the centre of the staircase, which was four feet diameter, and showed a seconds hand as well as hour and minutes hands; the second dial was in the great hall, and had a smaller dial showing no seconds hands, the leading off or connecting shaft being carried through the wall dividing the lobby from the hall.

The chief features of interest were the escapement and the excellent and workmanlike manner with which the works have been constructed, more especially as the requirements rendered a peculiar arrangements of parts necessary. The escapement was that known as Denison's detached gravity Remontoire which possesses the great advantage of always giving exactly the same impulse to the pendulum independent of any irregularities of the friction of the train, and in fact renders any great finish or precision of the train unnecessary.

The President pointed out that by the adoption of this admirable kind of escapement the construction of the best Turret Clocks was rendered far more simple than was generally imagined, and quite within the province of the engineers' workshop; he hoped that the Turret Clocks required in the colony would be constructed in Melbourne for the future. Photographs of the works were exhibited, and, in reply to questions on the subject, Mr. Ellery sketched and explained the principles of the escapement used.